

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7250

Amended Petition of Deerfield Wind, LLC, for a certificate)
of public good authorizing it to construct and operate a 17-)
turbine, 34-35.7 MW wind generation facility, and)
associated transmission and interconnection facilities, on)
approximately 80 acres in the Green Mountain National)
Forest, located in Searsburg and Readsboro, Vermont, with)
7 turbines to be placed on the east side of Route 8 on the)
same ridgeline as the existing GMP Searsburg wind facility)
(Eastern Project Area), and 10 turbines along the ridgeline)
to the west of Route 8 in the northwesterly orientation)
(Western Project Area))

Order entered: 6/11/2010

ORDER RE METEOROLOGICAL TOWER DECOMMISSIONING PLAN

On April 16, 2009, the Public Service Board ("Board") issued an Order and Certificate of Public Good ("CPG") approving Deerfield Wind, LLC's ("Deerfield") petition to construct a wind generation facility in Searsburg and Readsboro, Vermont. On July 17, 2009, the Board issued a subsequent Order that included an Amended CPG. Condition 2 of the Order and of the CPG required Deerfield to submit for Board approval final construction plans for the turbines and other project infrastructure. On August 14, 2009, Deerfield filed a request for Board approval of the installation of four meteorological ("MET") towers. Deerfield stated that, as part of its preparation of construction plans, its final site suitability assessment "will require the erection of 4 temporary meteorological ("MET") towers (2 on the western turbine string and 2 on the eastern turbine string) to collect additional wind data." Deerfield represented that it would remove the MET towers prior to the start of construction. Deerfield's filing included a site map and a brief narrative summary of the site work necessary to install the MET towers.

In its Order of November 10, 2009, the Board conditionally approved Deerfield's request to install four MET towers. Condition 3 of that Order stated: "By November 24, 2009, Deerfield shall file, for Board approval, a proposal for decommissioning of the MET towers authorized by this Order."¹ Deerfield filed the required proposal for decommissioning of the MET towers on November 24, 2009. The decommissioning plan estimated that the MET towers could be removed in 4 to 6 days, and would cost approximately \$18,000 (including \$15,000 labor and \$3,000 equipment rental). Deerfield proposed that any necessary MET tower decommissioning costs would be secured through a surety bond issued by a third party surety company.² No party commented on Deerfield's proposal.

We conclude that the decommissioning plan submitted by Deerfield on November 24, 2009, satisfies the requirements for the plan set forth in Condition 3 of the November 10, 2009, Order. The identified amount to be reserved for decommissioning of the MET towers is similar to that approved in Docket 7156, where the applicant was required to post a letter of credit in the amount of \$20,000 for decommissioning MET towers. We also find that the proposed surety bond is an appropriate vehicle for ensuring those sums are available. We therefore approve the decommissioning plan.

So ORDERED.

1. *Amended Petition of Deerfield Wind*, Docket 7250, Order of 11/10/09 at 3.

2. Letter from Andrew Raubvogel, Esq., to Susan Hudson, Clerk of the Board, dated November 23, 2009, at 1.

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont, this 11th day of June, 2010.

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| <u>s/ James Volz</u> |) | |
| |) | PUBLIC SERVICE |
| |) | |
| <u>s/ David C. Coen</u> |) | BOARD |
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| |) | OF VERMONT |
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OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: June 11, 2010

Attest: s/ Susan M. Hudson
Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)